

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3 – 9, 14, and 16 – 21 are now pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, 8, 9, 14, 16, and 21 have been amended. Claims 2, 10 – 13, and 15 have been cancelled. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 9 and 16 – 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 9 has been amended from “said input shaft” to read “said shaft” as pointed out by the Examiner. Claim 16 has been amended to be dependant upon claim 14. Therefore, claims 9 and 16 – 20 should now be in condition for allowance.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that claims 2, 3, 13, 15, and 21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant(s) have amended claims 1, 8, 14, and 21. More specifically, the limitations of claim 2 have been incorporated into amended claim 1. The limitations of claims 13, 12, 11 and 10 have been incorporated into amended claim 8. The limitations of claim 15 have been incorporated into amended claim 14. Amended claim 21 includes the limitations of original claim 14.

The Examiner further states that claims 16 – 20 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action

and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended claim 16 to be dependant upon claim 14. Therefore, claims 1, 3 – 7; 8, 9; 14, 16 – 20; and 21 should now be in condition for allowance.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 4 – 12, and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Dolan (U.S. Pat. No. 3,848,691). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Dolan discloses a transfer case for a four wheel drive system. A lubricant system 153 has a thread 155 for feeding lubricant from a chamber 145 through the first portion of the opening in hub 151 through a differential 97.

As noted above, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 2, therefore, claims 1 and 4 – 12 are in condition for allowance. Claim 14 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 15 and is therefore in condition for allowance.

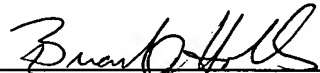
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner

believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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